आर्थिक सुधारों से राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति की समीक्षा करना आवश्यक हो गया था ताकि इसे औद्योगिक नीति विवरण के अनुरूप बनाया जा सके। कोई समय सीमा निर्धारित नहीं की गई है।

विदेशी एजेंसियों को खनन कार्य का सौंपा जाना

946. **श्री विनोद शर्मा** : क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार भविष्य में खनन कार्य विदेशी एजेंसियों को सौंपने पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार ने भारत में खनन कार्य में रुचि रखने वाली ऐसी विदेशी एजेंसियों के संबंध में जानकारी एकत्र करने के कुछ प्रयास किये हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो किए गए प्रयासों का ब्यौरा क्या है और ऐसे प्रत्येक देश की ऐसी एजेंसियों की अलग-अलग संख्या कितनी है जिन्होंने भारत में खनन कार्य करने में अपनी रुचि दिखाई है तथा ऐसी एजेंसियां किस किस देश में हैं।

खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव) : (क) हालांकि विदेशी एजेंसियों को खनन कार्य सौंपने पर कोई रोक नहीं है; फिर भी खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम में इस समय केवल उन भारतीय नागरिकों अथवा कम्पनियों को पूर्वेक्षण करने और खनन पट्टे देने की अनुमति है, जिनमें भारतीय नागरिकों के पास इक्विटी का 60% से कम न हो।इस प्रावधान पर पुनः विचार किया जा रहा है।

(ख) और (ग) भारत में खनन कार्य आरम्भ करने को इच्छुक विदेशी एजेंसियों का पता लगाने की कोई कार्रवाई शुरू नहीं की गई। परन्तु, कुछ विदेशी कम्पनियों और व्यक्तियों ने स्वयं प्रारंभिक पूछताछ की है।

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

947. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to rename Visakhapatnam Steel Plant after late Shri Tennelti Viswanatham Pantuhi, a renowned freedom fighter and statesman of par excellence; and

(b) fi so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No, Sir, There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government .

supply of safety shoes and helmets to the workers of Visakhapatnam steel plant

948. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re ceived any complaint regarding the supply of substandard safety shoes and helmets to the workers of Visa khapatnam steel plant;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV); (a) to (c) There are as such no complaints about the safety shoes and helmets supplied to the workers in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. The recognised Union of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in its charter of demands submitted to the management in April, 1991 had demanded that safety shoes of 'BATA' make should be provided to the employees. In the Tripartite Agreement signed with the recognised Union in August, 1991, it was agreed that the Management would hake efforts to supply safety shoes of 'BATA' make or any other reliable make. The Management is supplying safety

shoes a per "IS-11226" specification which has direct mouded soe of nitri-le rubber and considered superior to 'BATA' safety shoes which have stuck-on-soles.

Construction allowance for HSCL workers

949. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to tate:

(a) whether it is a fact that HSCL has been the construction company under SAIL and 21,000 workers of HSCL get construction allowance due to their hazardous working conditons;

(b) whether it is also a fact that management has decided to curtail the said allowance from May, 1992;

(c) whether it is a fact that these workers do not get fringe benefits like SAIL employees; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the cur tailment of construction allowance to the HSCL workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Prior to 1978, HSCL was under the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL); thereafter it became an independent compnay. HSCL' present workforce is approximately 19,000 employees.

The construction allowance was being given not for hazardous working conditions but to compensate for lack of facilities like housing, and medical facilities, etc., at the project sites located at out of the way places. As per the 3rd Pay Commission's recommendations, only employees drawing basic pay upto Rs. 1900|- per month were eligible for construction allowance.

(b) and (d) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendations of the High Power Pay Committee, construction allow ance has been withdrawn from some project sites where amenities as mentioned above are now available.

(c) Various benefits available to HSCL employees and SAIL employees cannot be compared, as these are two separate companies, involved in different areas of operations.

Import|export of steel

950. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that 33 MT of steel was exported during the last year at a cheaper rate while finished steel was imported at a much higher cost; if so, whether such a policy would not halt the growth of steel industry in the country; and

(b) what steps Government have taken so far for the development of indigenous technology for the steel sector for increasing|developing growth of this industry

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) During the year 1991-92, a total quantity of 3,87,000 tonnes of steel valued at Rs. 383 crores was exported. The average FOB price of steel thus works out to Rs. 9,896 per tonne. The average CIF price of imported steel was Rs. 13,232 per tonne. The higher cost of steel imports is mainly on account of additional cost of freight and in-surance and the fact that the imports are mainly of high value specialised steels, while exports are mostly low value items.

(b) Government has set up various agencies such as National Research Laboratories under the CSIR to take up research projects in relevant areas including steel making. A National Mission for Iron & Steel has also been constituted to provide scientific and technological inputs to the iron & steel industry both in public and private sector? Besides, the integrated steel plants have taken up moder-